

Assembly Bill No. 2484

CHAPTER 165

An act to amend Section 32228.1 of the Education Code, relating to instruction.

[Approved by Governor July 11, 2002. Filed with
Secretary of State July 12, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2484, Jackson. School violence prevention.

Existing law establishes the Carl Washington School Safety and Violence Prevention Act, which requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide funds to school districts serving pupils in any of grades 8 to 12, inclusive, for the purpose of promoting school safety and reducing schoolsite violence. Existing law requires the funds allocated pursuant to this act to be expended by the school districts for any one or more of specified purposes.

This bill would add as another eligible purpose, providing and implementing instructional curricula and materials on the prevention of school violence and school terrorism through recognition and reporting.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that over the past decade school violence, specifically "school terrorism," has increased dramatically. There has been reported 27 shooting incidents since 1992. In recent years, the frequency of these violent acts have increased 73 percent. Nineteen of these incidents have occurred in the last three and one-half years. California has not been immune from these attacks. There have been five reported school shootings since 1998. Many more shootings have escaped media attention.

In nearly all of these cases the perpetrator has either made statements threatening future violence or engaged in overt behavior commonly associated with criminal violence prior to the shooting. Those who were aware of this behavior often did not report their concerns to school officials or law enforcement.

The Legislature further finds and declares that there is a compelling need to encourage students, educators, and parents to report threats of violence and violent behavior of pupils and others that pose a danger to school safety.

SEC. 2. Section 32228.1 of the Education Code is amended to read:

32228.1. (a) This act shall be known as the School Safety and Violence Prevention Act. This statewide program shall be administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, who shall provide funds to school districts serving pupils in any of grades 8 to 12, inclusive, for the purpose of promoting school safety and reducing schoolsite violence. As a condition of receiving funds pursuant to this article, an eligible school district shall certify, on forms and in a manner required by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, that the funds will be used as described.

(b) From funds appropriated in the annual Budget Act or any other measure, funds shall be allocated to school districts on the basis of prior year enrollment, as reported by the California Basic Educational Data System, of pupils in any of grades 8 to 12, inclusive, for any one or more of the following purposes:

(1) Providing schools with personnel, including, but not limited to, licensed or certificated school counselors, school social workers, school nurses, and school psychologists, who are trained in conflict resolution. Any law enforcement personnel hired pursuant to this article shall be trained and sworn peace officers.

(2) Providing effective and accessible on-campus communication devices and other school safety infrastructure needs.

(3) Establishing an in-service training program for school staff to learn to identify at-risk pupils, to communicate effectively with those pupils, and to refer those pupils to appropriate counseling.

(4) Providing and implementing instructional curricula and materials designed to equip pupils with skills and understanding necessary to prevent school violence by recognizing and reporting threats of school violence and school terrorism.

(5) Establishing cooperative arrangements with local law enforcement agencies for appropriate school-community relationships.

(6) Preventing and responding to acts of hate violence and bias-related incidents, including implementation of programs and instructional curricula consistent with the goals set forth in this section and guidelines developed pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 233.

(7) For any other purpose that the school or school district determines that would materially contribute to meeting the goals and objectives of current law in providing for safe schools and preventing violence among pupils.

